

# WHAT WENT WRONG AT CARNIVAL?

Standard Reporters

A "what went wrong?" probe started today in the wake of the Notting Hill calypso carnival that burst into a bloody riot.

Organisers, police, councillors and community workers searched for the answer.

As weary police patrolled the debris-strewn streets around Portobello Road, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Robert Mark announced that he would be calling a Press conference.

With him would be the Deputy Commissioner Colin Woods and Deputy Assistant Commissioner Wilford Gibson who was in overall charge of Scotland Yard's operations yesterday.

## The victims

Mr Woods went into Scotland Yard yesterday as the seriousness of the troubles became known and Sir Robert noted for his liberal attitude on race relations, was in contact with the Prime Minister after speaking with senior officers at the Yard and at the scene.

The riot toll was given today. There were 325 police officers injured, of which 116 required hospital treatment, and of these 26 were detained.

St John Ambulance Brigade treated 71 civilians. Twenty nine went to hospital and one was detained.

Altogether, 70 people were arrested. Some will appear at Marylebone on charges ranging from assault to having offensive weapons.

## 'Police to blame'

Black community leaders have accused the police for the riots.

Their verdict was unanimous—too many police on the streets had provoked confrontation with black youths.

Mr Carl Drayton, on the carnival's organising committee, said: "There were far too many police patrolling the area all day. There's always going to be some trouble when you get 20,000 people together, but this was all wrong. "The attitude of the police officers did not help the situation."

And chairman of the committee, Mr Selwyn Baptiste, said: "It's too early yet to say what went wrong, but the police present provoked the situation."

"This was a carnival of  
Continued Page 9



THE CARNIVAL is over for one policeman as he is carried away by baton carrying colleagues.

Conrad Hoffenrichter

## The battleground of Notting Hill

THE streets of Notting Hill were like a battleground today.

Smashed shops, battered cars, police guarding looted stores and empty roadways covered in broken glass gave the Portobello Road the appearance of Belfast.

Ladbroke Grove and the

Portobello Road area were closed to traffic today.

The happy, freewheeling atmosphere of the tenth West Indian street carnival exploded just after 5.30 p.m. yesterday.

The carnival was over by 6 p.m.—what followed were ugly scenes of street violence,

shop looting, muggings and baton charges by squads of the 100-plus police force on hand. By 11 p.m. it was all over.

The police came under attack from black youths in the Acland Road area.

The violence quickly spread to Ladbroke Grove. Crowds of screaming, terrified carnival-

goers fled as bottles smashed on the street and police began arming themselves with dustbin lids.

A demolition site on the corner of Blackgrove Road gave a ready supply of bricks to hurl.

The police—who had stood  
Continued Page 9

## Inside the Racing Standard

Ajax, Newmarket news—2;  
Warwick runners,  
Ripon card, form—  
4, 5; Kempton Park form—31;  
Kempton Park card—32;  
Greyhound Standard—28, 29,  
30.

## TV and radio

Page 9  
Entertainment 12



# Notting Hill battleground

Contd. from Page One

in groups of six or seven at street corners all day—moved swiftly into action.

But loads of reinforcements roared through the streets and a police helicopter hovered overhead. Officers positioned themselves on the overhead Westway motorway to spot pockets of resistance and operations were commanded from a mobile HQ in Portobello Road.

In Ladbroke Grove a police car was set on fire and four other cars overturned.

As police gained control of the Askam Road area bottle-throwing black youths retreated down Portobello Road.

In the darkness they smashed and looted Stones' menswear shop—ripping the metal grids from the windows with their bare hands and stripping suits and shirts from displays in seconds.

Trouble then centred on dark side streets to the north

of Portobello Road.

Police escorting the remnants of a carnival float and steel band came under heavy brick and bottle attack in Lancaster Road. Carnival-goers—many dragging terrified children—were trapped in the onslaught and sheltered in doorways.

The police, armed with rubber dustbin lids and three-foot-long riot sticks, charged. But not in time to stop looters attacking another clothing shop—smashing windows and helping themselves to jeans and dresses.

In a bizarre moment of calm a Rolls-Royce owner could be seen transporting his vehicle to safety on the back of a lorry.

Further up the road about 40 black youths leaped on a parked Mercedes and jumped up and down on the roof and bonnet until the body panels were flattened.

The Co-Op at the junction of Westbourne Park Road and

All Saints' Road was the next victim.

About 100 black youths smashed the windows and began looting—throwing cans of beer and bottles to their friends in the street.

A crowd of several hundred black teenagers urged them on — hurling bottles at police vans that sped by.

The crowd was singing the Rastafarians Battle-Cry, Babylon, and a girl waved a flag of the Lion of Judah—symbol of the cult's figure-head, the former Emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie.

The now-familiar screams and fast-running figures indicated the arrival of heavily-armed police. They moved down the street in battle lines, fending off flying bottles with their dustbin lids.

The hail of missiles from All Saints' Road halted them — then with a roar nearly 100 police charged the fleeing youths.

Outside the Mangrove res-

taurant — a favourite haunt of West Indian youths—several policemen were sent sprawling as they were tripped.

Hundreds of black youths were dancing to a street discotheque in Lancaster Road when the police squad arrived.

Bottles began to fly. Police seized orange crates from a grocer's shop and plastic no-waiting signs to protect themselves.

One P.C. sheltered behind the nude dummy figure of a shapely young girl taken from a women's clothing shop.

Over his microphone the DJ appealed to the police to withdraw. The mood of the dancers was ugly and he shouted at them: "Gentlemen, Don't f--- the police. We want peace."

## Injuries

After a tense few minutes the police, still clutching their weapons, waited patiently until the deadline for street music at carnival time expired at 11 p.m.

"Let's get the bastards."

one police officer muttered to his colleagues—many of them with head injuries from flying bottles.

Two streets away the violence ended in some of the worst scenes of conflict outside the Metro Youth Club at the junction of St Luke's Road and Tavistock Road, where a disco played until after 11 p.m.

A gang of several hundred black youths attacked a white youth.

Locals warned passing whites: "Don't go in that area. You'll get attacked."

The gang took command of the street junction, grabbing open the doors of passing cars, stoning police vans and robbing any whites in sight.

One clothing boutique lost around £9000 worth of goods, looted during the riot.

Manager, Mr Naresh Patel, 23, said: "They took all the expensive stuff, all the denim wear, shirts and skirts. They left only the hangers and the cheaper stuff."